

Governor Carney Hosts Ramadan Iftar Dinner at Woodburn

DOVER, Del. – Governor John Carney hosted 30 guests Wednesday evening at a Ramadan Iftar dinner at Woodburn, including members of Delaware's Muslim community and statewide elected officials.

The Iftar is the evening meal after sunset that concludes the daily fasting during the month of Ramadan, which ends the evening of June 24 this year. For observers, the Iftar dinner and Ramadan are a time to reflect on humanity and to reaffirm commitments to helping the less fortunate.



Governor Carney speaks to attendees at the Iftar dinner.

“In addition to the spiritual grounding of fasting, I have been impressed by Ramadan’s additional purpose of enhancing our compassion toward one another and heightening our awareness of those among us who are most in need – a powerful recommitment to caring for the poor and vulnerable,” said **Governor Carney**. “I am proud and pleased to stand as a friend to the Muslim community of Delaware, which has strengthened our state in innumerable ways and given so much to others.”

Wednesday’s event was the third Iftar dinner hosted by a governor of Delaware, renewing the tradition begun by Governor

Jack Markell in 2015. In attendance were representatives from five Delaware mosques, as well as U.S. Representative Lisa Blunt Rochester, Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long, Secretary of State Jeffrey Bullock and Delaware State Housing Authority Director Anas Ben Addi.

Governor Carney recently named **Irfan Patel**, chair of interfaith relations of the Islamic Society of Delaware, to the Governor's Council of Faith-Based Partnerships. The Council works to create partnerships between faith-based organizations and state government.

"We appreciate Governor Carney's commitment to friendship by hosting this Iftar dinner and joining us during Ramadan," said Patel. "This support for Delaware Muslims is a welcome symbol of our elected officials' dedication to diversity and equality in our state."

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Photos from the Iftar dinner are available [here](#).